



Stop & Shop Supermarket Company

Cape Composting Project

Presented by:
Kristina Stefanski
Environmental Specialist

Former/Current Method of Organics Diversion -

- Pig farmer for organics disposal
 - Less expensive than the landfill = cost effective
 - More environmentally sound than the landfill
 - Works where other alternatives to the landfill may not
- ...but, makes finding that cost effective alternative, such as composting, a far greater challenge than for most!
- Composting began in 1997 with a program out in W.MA –now 12 stores strong
- Early in 2000 a program began with 3 stores in Rhode Island

Initial Cape Pilot

- Began at Mashpee Stop & Shop location on October 20, 2000.
- Stemmed from Stop & Shop's membership in the MADEP SWAC Organics Sub-committee
- Stop & Shop worked with MADEP to focus on ways of meeting state recycling goals
- Store started the pilot with the use of a 35-yard compactor unit designated to organics

Incentives to Compost

- Maintain Corporate philosophy to recycle -
 - plastics
 - cardboard
 - organics
- Composting on the Cape provides a minimum of 15-20% savings over traditional disposal costs (pig farmer)
- Removes a greater amount of waste vs. the pig farmer
- Increases sanitation and safety
- Provides an avenue for partnership with local business and the local communities we operate in

Program Expansion

- Added a toter program to the Falmouth store in late 2001, and transitioned into a compactor by early 2002
- By March of 2002, all remaining 7 Cape stores were added to the program with toters
- Marston Mills was added later in July of 2002 – the store opened with a compactor unit designated to organics.

Current Status



3 Compactor stores -

- Marston Mills
- Falmouth
- Mashpee



7 Toter Stores -

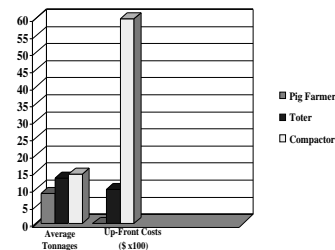
- Orleans, Harwich, Dennis, Hyannis, Sandwich, Yarmouth, and Wareham

Currently all 10 Cape stores are on line.

Toter Signage



Numbers Comparison



If Stop & Shop can profit by finding a method more cost effective than the pig farmer, a business operating with no alternative will find the savings through the use of a composting program far greater in number than presented here.

Successful Partnerships = Successful Programs

Success comes from partnerships with both your hauler and compost facility -

- Insure that contracts are clear and understood by all involved
- Keep the channels of communication open:
 - Share data on program (tonnages, rates for services, etc.)
 - Communicate potential issues (with contamination, quality of provided services, increase in costs, etc.)
 - Coordinate program monitoring for quality control assurance – monitoring needs to be from multiple fronts
- Keep all parties involved!

Source Separation



Ready for pick-up –

Peter Watts of Watts Family Farm



Overview - Toter vs. Compactor

Toter Method

Pros:

- Minimal upfront costs (makes overall more cost effective based on current organics disposal method)
- Easy program transition
- Able to accommodate at any store location

Cons:

- Less organics removed from waste stream
 - Waxed corrugated
 - Out of code meats and fish

Compactor Method

Pros:

- Removes most organics from the waste stream
- Further reduces use of landfills

Cons:

- Not able to accommodate everywhere (site specific)
- Large upfront costs for installation
 - Concrete pad
 - Electrical hook-up
 - Building modifications

What's Next – Looking Forward

- Based on the existing reduced costs of our current outlet for organics disposal, the toter method will be the method of choice.
- Looking to expand in both southern MA and in the Boston area – continue to look for cost effective hauling and disposal options.
- Stop & Shop will continue to research current and new technologies to find the most effective program, or programs.
- Flexibility is the key – based on the ever changing demographics of the business/supermarket industry, there may be more than one way to do things effectively.